

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1-5, 11-18, 25 and 26, as follows:

1. (Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed on a surface of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

2. (Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing cobalt together with at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed on a surface of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

3. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2, characterized in that said coating layer containing cobalt is heat-treated in the presence of alkali and oxygen.

4. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that said lanthanoid is at least one element selected from the group consisting of

lanthanum La, cerium Ce, praseodymium Pr, neodymium Nd, europium Eu, and ytterbium Yb.

5. (Amended) The sintered nicked electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that an amount of said hydroxide in the coating layer is in the range of 0.5 to 5 wt% based on the total amount of all the applied materials which includes the active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide.

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11. (Amended) An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1 is used as its positive electrode.

12. (Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that an intermediate layer containing at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed between the porous sintered nickel substrate and the active material.

13. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 12, characterized in that said intermediate layer is formed on surface of the porous sintered nickel substrate.

14. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 12, characterized in that said intermediate layer contains cobalt.

15. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 14, characterized in that said intermediate layer containing cobalt is heat-treated in the presence of alkali and oxygen.

16. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 12, characterized in that a second intermediate layer composed of cobalt hydroxide is formed on said intermediate layer.

17. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 16, characterized in that said second intermediate layer composed of cobalt hydroxide is heat-treated in the presence of alkali and oxygen.

18. (Amended) The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 12, characterized in that said lanthanoid is at least one element selected from the group consisting of lanthanum La, cerium Ce, praseodymium Pr, neodymium Nd, europium Eu, and ytterbium Yb.

25. (Amended) An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 12 is used as its positive electrode.

26. (Amended) An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2 is used as its positive electrode.